HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN'S

Thumbelina

THUMBELINA AND THE PRINCE

HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN'S

Thumbelina

THUMBELINA AND THE PRINCE

Adapted by Francine Hughes
From a screenplay by Don Bluth
Based on the story by Hans Christian Andersen

GROSSET & DUNLAP • NEW YORK

TM & © 1994 Don Bluth Limited. All rights reserved. Published by Grosset & Dunlap, Inc., a member of The Putnam & Grosset Group, New York. Published simultaneously in Canada. GROSSET & DUNLAP is a trademark of Grosset & Dunlap, Inc. Printed in the U.S.A. Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 92-72107
ISBN 0-448-40506-7 A B C D E F G H I J

Once there was a handsome fairy prince named Cornelius.

One warm summer night, Cornelius was riding past an open window on Buzzby, his trusty bumblebee, when he heard a beautiful voice singing softly.

Who could it be? he wondered.

The prince peeked inside the room and saw a teeny-tiny girl looking at a big book of fairy tales. It was Thumbelina, pretending she was dancing with a fairy prince.

Cornelius was so enchanted, he flew right into the room.

"Oh!" said Thumbelina in surprise. Quickly she hid in a nearby teapot. She had never seen someone else her size and she was just a little scared.

"I didn't mean to frighten you," the prince said gently. "I'm Cornelius."

Thumbelina smiled. A real, live fairy, she thought to herself. She wondered if he knew a fairy prince!

"My name is Thumbelina," she said.

The prince gallantly led Thumbelina over to Buzzby and took her on a magical ride through the moonlit night. They flew over a silvery pond and a field of pretty daffodils. Already they were falling in love. And not until the evening was almost over did Thumbelina discover that Cornelius was himself a fairy prince!

"Something special has happened tonight," said the prince as he finally carried Thumbelina back to her house.

Thumbelina thought so too. Before Cornelius left, she gave him her necklace of forget-me-not flowers. "Do not forget me," she said.

"Never," said the prince. Then he took a ring from his own hand and gently placed it on Thumbelina's finger. "I will be back in the morning," he promised. "Then I will take you to the fairy court and you can meet my parents. We'll live happily ever after. Maybe even longer!"

Early the next day, the prince returned just as he promised. He called for Thumbelina, but the tiny girl was not there.

"Woof, woof." Only her dog, Hero, answered.

"Where is she?" asked the prince.

Hero pretended to drag something toward the window. "Thumbelina was stolen away!" exclaimed Prince Cornelius. "Who did it?"

Then Hero puffed out his neck. "By toads!" said the prince. "I'll find her!" he vowed. And, leaping onto Buzzby, away he flew.

Thumbelina, meanwhile, had been taken to a marsh where she was left all alone—a prisoner on a lily pad. But Thumbelina knew her kidnappers would be back. An ugly toad named Grundel wanted Thumbelina for his bride!

"Help! Help!" shouted Thumbelina.

Hearing her cries, a little swallow named Jacquimo flew over. And, along with some friendly insects called Jitterbugs, he pushed and pulled the lily pad until Thumbelina was back on shore. But Thumbelina wasn't safe yet—she still had to find her way home!

While Thumbelina made her way through the woods, Prince Cornelius searched for her near the marsh. "Thumbelina," he called. "Thumbelina!"

Suddenly a fierce wind blew—whoosh! Autumn had arrived. And it was getting colder.

WHISH! WHOOSH! The winds grew even stronger. Buzzby could barely fly! Again the prince called Thumbelina's name. But it was no use. His words were lost in the wind.

At last the prince spied a hollow log and decided to take shelter from the storm. Carefully, he guided Buzzby inside where he found the Jitterbugs—the very ones who had helped Thumbelina!

"She was trying to find her way home when the beetle took her away," they told the prince. "Berkeley Beetle has Thumbelina now!"

"I've got to find her!" said Cornelius. And bracing himself against the fierce wind, he rode back into the storm.

Up the prince flew, higher and higher, looking desperately for Thumbelina among the Beetletrees.

But Berkeley Beetle had already decided he didn't like Thumbelina.

"You're too ugly for me," he told her. "You don't look anything like a beetle!" And he left Thumbelina on the ground, right where he had found her.

Meanwhile it was growing colder—autumn turned into winter. The prince shivered as snowflakes began to fall. They came down faster and faster—it was a blizzard!

ZING! A sharp piece of ice struck Buzzby. The bumblebee spun around in a circle, then fell to the ground. Cornelius was thrown from the saddle and dropped—hard!—onto a frozen pond.

CRACK! The ice splintered and Prince Cornelius plunged into the freezing cold water. Seconds later the prince bobbed to the surface—frozen solid in a block of ice! And that's exactly how Berkeley Beetle found him when he walked by a little later.

"Aha!" said Berkeley to his beetle friends. "It is the prince! And I know just where to take him." The beetles lifted the frozen prince and carried him off…all the way to Grundel Toad! Grundel had convinced Berkeley Beetle to help him find Thumbelina.

"The prince cannot help Thumbelina now!" Grundel exclaimed happily. "Thumbelina marry me!"

"Wait," said Berkeley Beetle. "I have news. Thumbelina is in the Tunnel of Treachery where the underground animals live. She knows about the prince, and has agreed to marry Mister Mole!"

In no time at all, Grundel and Berkeley were headed for the Tunnel of Treachery to find Thumbelina, leaving poor frozen Cornelius behind.

But the prince was not alone for long. The Jitterbugs had seen everything from their hiding place. They scurried over and quickly built a small fire under the block of ice. Bit by bit the ice melted.

Suddenly the prince moved a finger.

"Look! He's waking up!" they said. "We must tell him about Thumbelina and the mole!"

Little did they know that Thumbelina was already walking down the aisle of the underground Wedding Hall.

Thumbelina took another step. Then she glanced at her hand and saw the prince's ring. All at once, Thumbelina realized she could never marry someone she didn't love.

"I cannot marry you!" she told Mister Mole.

Thumbelina ran out of the Hall and through the dark tunnels, with Mister Mole and the guests chasing behind. Then, just as she turned a corner—PLOP! PLOP! Grundel Toad and Berkeley Beetle dropped down from the ceiling in front of her.

"I won't marry you, either!" Thumbelina shouted at Grundel.

The tiny girl pushed her way past and darted around a corner. She didn't even see Prince Cornelius fly into the tunnel. She was in too much of a hurry.

"Thumbelina *will* marry me!" shouted Grundel as he ran after the fleeing girl. But the prince blocked his way. Drawing his sword, Cornelius drove Grundel, then Berkeley Beetle, deep into the tunnel—until at last they gave up and ran away.

"Thumbelina!" called the prince. "You can stop running!"

But Thumbelina was already climbing out of the tunnel into the bright spring sunshine—where her friend Jacquimo was waiting to fly her to the Vale of Fairies.

When Jacquimo set her down, Thumbelina looked around in surprise. The Vale was just a patch of weeds!

"Now sing, Thumbelina. Sing!" said Jacquimo.

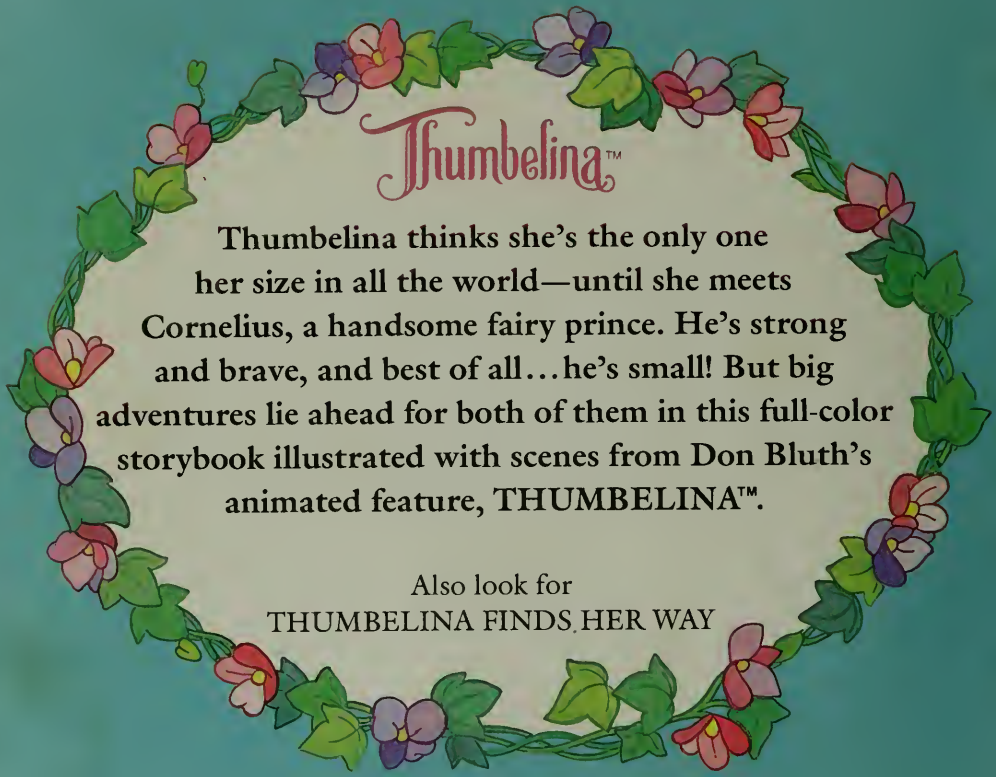
Sadly, Thumbelina sang the song she was singing the night she met the prince. Suddenly another voice joined in. "Cornelius!" cried Thumbelina, running toward him.

Magically, the patch of weeds turned into a beautiful rose garden and Thumbelina's tattered dress became a wedding gown. And, best of all, Thumbelina found she had lovely fairy wings!

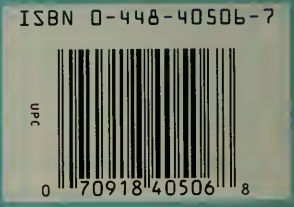
Then the fairy queen, the fairy king, and the entire fairy court appeared. It was time for a real fairy wedding!

Trumpets sounded and hundreds of fairies lined the garden path to blow kisses to the new fairy princess. The prince and his true love were together at last!

Then Prince Cornelius helped Thumbelina onto Buzzby. And waving good-bye to all their friends, the two flew off into the night—and they lived happily ever after!


Thumbelina™
Thumbelina thinks she's the only one her size in all the world—until she meets Cornelius, a handsome fairy prince. He's strong and brave, and best of all…he's small! But big adventures lie ahead for both of them in this full-color storybook illustrated with scenes from Don Bluth's animated feature, THUMBELINA™.
Also look for
THUMBELINA FINDS HER WAY

ISBN 0-448-40506-7



Grosset & Dunlap

TM & © 1994 Don Bluth Limited. All rights reserved.